United Nations E/CN.3/2001/12

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
4 December 2000

Original: English

Statistical Commission
Thirty-second session
6-9 March 2001
Item 4 (f) of the provisional agenda*
Economic statistics: Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Statistical Commission the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (Convener: International Labour Organization), which is contained in the annex. The report is transmitted to the Commission in accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-first session.[1]

Points for discussion

2. The Commission may wish to comment on the activities of the Working Group.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 4* (E/2000/24), para. 1.

* E/CN.3/2001/1.

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Annex

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics

1. Since its previous report to the Statistical Commission at its thirty-first session, the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (IWGPS) has met several times formally and informally to review progress on the preparation of the manuals on consumer price indices (CPI) and on producer price indices (PPI).

2. Work on the preparation of both these manuals has started, with agreement on a common outline and free exchange of information and relevant text between the two processes. Writing of draft chapters has started and the editing processes have been established.

3. The inclusion of an annex on purchasing power parties (PPP) in the CPI manual, as requested by the World Bank, was debated at some length by IWGPS. It was agreed that the annex, if included, should focus on the integration of data collection for CPI and PPP; the final decision would be taken after examining an initial draft of the annex.

4. The technical expert group on PPI had its second meeting in Madrid in September 2000, in conjunction with a meeting of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics. First drafts of seven chapters of the PPI manual were reviewed at this meeting.

5. The next meeting of the technical expert group on CPI is planned for January 2001, and will be devoted to a discussion of the draft first part of the CPI manual. The second part of the manual will be taken up at the March 2001 meeting.

6. As many of the authors of the CPI manual will be at the next meeting of the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes planned for April 2001 (see E/CN.3/2001/11), on that occasion an informal meeting of the technical expert group on CPI will be organized to review the manual.

7. It is anticipated that first versions of the CPI manual will be available by spring 2001 and of the PPI manual by summer 2001.